

Response to Comment Letter I84

Linda White
February 21, 2014

Comment Letter I84

Linda McCallister White
15778 Doyon Place
La Mirada, Ca. 90638

February 14, 2014

Mr. Robert Hington, Planner
Planning and Developing Services
5510 Overland Ave. Suite 110
San Diego, Ca. 92123

This letter is in opposition of:

- Soitec Solar Development
- Tule Wind Project
- Rough Acres Ranch Conference Center/ Campground

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Development Services

Dear Mr. Hington,

I feel these projects were presented to the county under false pretense. The developers were not truthful in their claims of how much water they were going to use, among other things. I believe you all were shocked when finding out these deceptions at the Feb. 6, 2014 meeting in Boulevard.

I ask that you reconsider allowing these projects to be approved. Civilization can do without many things, but we cannot survive without water! Water shortage is a major concern in the world today. California is in a drought now, and the future doesn't look promising. All of the projects listed above are going to require a tremendous amount of water.

Please take the time to think about the future. Ask yourself honestly if you would want to live with the guilt of making the wrong decision...thinking power or money was more important than water. In the end you won't have any need for the power if you don't have water...all the people will be gone.

There is another hazard associated with these projects FIRE. There was an explosion/fire at the Infigen Wind on Dec. 16, 2013 due to a wind turbine. The solar panels also pose a potential fire problem. This is a high wind area with dense brush and trees and fires can spread quickly. I feel the turbines and solar panels will increase that threat allowing for the fact Boulevard only has one volunteer fire department.

Concerning the Rough Acres Ranch/Campground. We already have three public campgrounds starting 1 mile north of Rough Acres, and Rough Acres has a campground on their property in West Valley, less than 1/2 mile west of the proposed new campground. Why do they need another one? In addition to the water they will be using for their campgrounds the campgrounds also pose a fire threat due to out of control campfires, careless smokers, and motorcycles or ATV's.

We are already losing oak trees due to the lowering of the water table on our ranch (McCallister Ranch), we border Rough Acres Ranch so this is a great concern to me.

I84-1

I84-2

I84-3

I84-4

I84-1

The County of San Diego (County) agrees that revisions to the construction water demand estimate was required and revisions have been made the initial estimates. With increased water demand, impacts to groundwater resources remain less than significant. See common responses WR1 and WR2 for details. Construction and operational water use was considered and addressed in Sections 3.1.5.3, Groundwater Resources, and 3.1.9.3, Water, of the DPEIR.

I84-2

Issues raised in this comment related to fire hazards were considered and addressed in Section 3.1.4.3, Wildfire Hazards, of the DPEIR. See also response to comment I37-3.

I84-3

The Rough Acres Ranch campground is considered in the DPEIR as a cumulative project; however, it is not part of this project and as such would not be considered by the decision makers. Rough Acres is being processed under a separate Major Use Permit, and concerns related to that project may be identified during the public review period. This comment does not raise a specific issue related to the Proposed Project or the adequacy of the environmental analysis in the DPEIR and no additional response is provided or required.

	<p>I84-4 Potential adverse impacts to oaks (<i>Quercus</i> sp.) were considered and addressed in the DPEIR (see Chapter 2.3, Biological Resources).</p>
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<div data-bbox="216 228 951 1247" data-label="Text"> <p>A team from the University of California Riverside came out to assess the trees in the area. While Examining the trees on our ranch (McCallister), they explained <u>due to the depletion of the water table</u> the trees go into stress mode allowing the bark beetles to attack them, which end up killing the trees. The trees that are dying are between 300-500 years old. This is one more reason these projects should not be allowed to take the <u>water table</u> down.</p> <p>I would also like you to know how these projects have and will effect my elderly parents and our property, McCallister Ranch. My parents moved to Boulevard in 1966 to enjoy the clean air, tranquility and atmosphere of a small community. Since Hammond bought Rough Acres Ranch all of that has come to an end. When Sunrise Power Link came through it was as if the 8 Freeway had been detoured onto McCain Valley Road. The constant traffic destroyed the road. Sunrise should have replaced the road, but instead they just patched it.</p> <p>The towers were put up next to our property line, and my parents have not been able to receive good phone service since they were installed. Due to the high voltage they experience almost constant static on their phone. The static has gotten so bad at times they have not been able to use their phone for several days. I worry about a medical emergency, they are 86 and 87 years old and with the static their words are cut off when they are talking making it difficult to understand what they are saying.</p> <p>There is such a large volume of stray voltage from the power lines, that Sunrise Power without informing my parents put #6 ground wire on all 5 strands of their fence at 200' intervals. When standing at the fence you can hear the crackling of the electricity. I am afraid of getting shocked or a fire starting.</p> <p>With all the new projects at Rough Acres it will bring many strangers into the area, workers and campers, therefore increasing my concern for the <u>safety and security</u> of my parents. I fear there may be trespassers or thieves who may harm them.</p> <p>In conclusion, with the nationally recognized drought we are experiencing I feel these projects are not a wise choice or good stewardship of the water resources. Please rethink and oppose these projects and <u>SAVE OUR WATER</u>.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p><i>Linda McCallister White</i></p> <p>Linda McCallister White</p> <p>Cc: Jim Bennett</p> <p>2</p> </div> <div data-bbox="976 235 1039 933" data-label="Text"> <p>184-4 Cont.</p> <p>184-5</p> <p>184-6</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1050 196 1136 230" data-label="Text"> <p>I84-5</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1186 196 1923 1385" data-label="Text"> <p>This comment relates to effects from the Sunrise Powerlink project on the commenter and does not raise specific issues related to the Proposed Project or the adequacy of the environmental analysis in the DPEIR. The information in this comment will be in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) for review and consideration by the decision makers.</p> <p>The commenter expresses concerns related to safety and security. As this issue relates to the adequacy of emergency services, the topic is discussed in Section 3.1.7, Public Services, of the DPEIR. Social and economic effects are not environmental issues and as such are not evaluated in an environmental impact report (see 14 CCR 15064(e)).</p> <p>The County acknowledges the commenter's concern associated with stray voltage. The County assumes the commenter is referring to electric and magnetic fields (EMF). Recognizing there is a great deal of public interest and concern regarding potential health effects and hazards from exposure to EMFs, the DPEIR provides information regarding these potential issues; see Section 3.1.4.5 of the DPEIR. However, the DPEIR does not consider EMFs in the context of the CEQA for determination of environmental impact because there is no agreement among scientists that EMFs create a health risk and because there are no defined or adopted CEQA standards for defining</p> </div>
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	<p>health risks from EMFs. As a result, the EMF information is presented for the benefit of the public and decision makers. Furthermore, in response to this comment and other comments regarding EMF, a memorandum was prepared by Asher R. Sheppard, PhD to support the information provided in the DPEIR and provide more detail; see Appendix 9.0-1. The memorandum concludes that EMF from the Proposed Project are highly localized and pose no known concern for human health.</p> <p>I84-6 The County acknowledges the commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project. The information in this comment will be provided in the FPEIR for review and consideration by the decision makers.</p> <p>References</p> <p>14 CCR 15000–15387 and Appendices A–L. Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.</p>
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